**What will we learn?**

* Identifying and using different HTML formatting codes.
* Creating and modifying HTML documents using a simple text editor.
* Writing a series of web pages that present information, graphics, and provide hypertext links to other documents on the Internet.

**What is HTML?**

HTML (hypertext markup language) is a format that tells a computer how to display a web page. The documents themselves are plain text files (ASCII) with special "tags" or codes that a web browser knows how to interpret and display on your screen.

URL : Uniform Resource Locator

WWW : World Wide Web

HTTP : hypertext transfer protocol

Browser: Browser is software that interprets html codes to the understandable format. Microsoft Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Opera and Maxthon are the most known browsers.

**Why should we learn html?**

* creating own webpage,
* connecting with millions of other people and share information,
* business necessity,
* personal interest, hobby,
* promote or sell something online.

**What do we need for writing HTML codes?**

We just need a simple text editor like Notepad. There are also software "tools" that allow you to create web pages without touching any HTML codes such Dreamweaver and FrontPage.

**What are HTML tags?**

When a web browser displays a page, it reads from a plain text file, and looks for special codes or "tags" that are marked by the **<** and **>** signs. The general format for a HTML tag is:

<tag name>string of text</tag name>

HTML tags may tell a web browser to bold the text, italicize it, make it into a header, or make it be a hypertext link to another web page. It is important to note that the ending tag,

</tag name>

contains the "/" slash character. This "/" slash tells a web browser to stop tagging the text. Many HTML tags are paired this way. If you forget the slash, a web browser will continue the tag for the rest of the text in your document, producing undesirable results (as an experiment you may want to try this later).

**NOTE:** A web browser does not care if you use upper or lower case. For example, <h3>...</h3> is no different from <H3>...</H3>

Unlike computer programming, if you make a typographical error in HTML you will not get a "bomb" or "crash" the system; your web page will simply look, well... wrong. It is quick and easy to go inside the HTML and make the changes.

**Creating Your HTML Document**

An HTML document contains two distinct parts, the head and the body. The head contains information about the document that is not displayed on the screen. The body then contains everything else that is displayed as part of the web page.

The basic structure then of any HTML page is:

<html>

<head>

<!-- header info used to contain extra information about this document, not displayed on the page -->

</head>

<body>

<!-- all the HTML for display -->

: :

: :

: :

</body>

</html>

Here are the steps for creating your first HTML file. Are you ready?

1. If it is not open already, launch your text editor program.
2. Go to the text editor window.
3. Enter the following text (you do not have to press ENTER at the end of each line; the web browser will word wrap all text):

<html>

<head>

<title>My Personal Website</title>

</head>

<!-- written for the Writing HTML Tutorial by Senol Sahin, April 24, 2007 -->

<body> In this lesson you will use the Internet to research information on HTML and then write a report on your results.

</body>

</html>

**NOTE:**  Look where the <title>...</title> tag is located. It is in the <head>...</head> portion and thus will not be visible on the screen. What does it do? The <title> tag is used to uniquely identify each document and is also displayed in the title bar of the browser window.

Also note that we have inserted a comment tag that lists the name of theauthor and the date the document was created. You could write anything in between the comment tags but it is only visible when you look at the source HTML for a web page.

1. Save the document as a file called "mypage.html" and keep it in the folder. Also, if you are using a word processor program to create your HTML, be sure to save in plain text (or ASCII) format.

**NOTE:** You can also save your document like “mypage.htm”. Do not worry! Your web browser is smart enough to know that a file that has a name that ends in .HTM is an HTML file. By using this file name extension, a web browser will know to read these text files as HTML and properly display the web page.

Now click the document to open it with a browser and you should now see in the title bar of the workspace window the text “My Personal Website " and in the web page below, the one sentence of <body> text you wrote, "In this lesson...".

**Practice:**

Think of a topic for your own web page. Now create your own HTML text file that includes a <title> tag and a few introductory sentences. Save the HTML file and reload it in your web browser.